## Town of Arlington Massachusetts

# **Report of the Finance Committee**



## **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

#### The Finance Committee recommends passages of the following votes:

(Unless otherwise indicated, the following recommendations were by unanimous votes: any exceptions are noted in parentheses following the text of the recommended vote. The Chairman votes only when the recommendation of the Finance Committee will be affected.)

#### **ARTICLE 1** The Board of Selectmen will report on this article.

#### **ARTICLE 2**

### CAPITAL BUDGET/OTTOSON SCHOOL MODULAR CLASSROOMS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the design, acquisition, and construction of temporary classroom space for the Ottoson Middle School, determine how the money shall be raised and expended, including the possibility of borrowing all or some of same; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager)

**VOTED:** The Finance Committee recommends a vote of No Action on this Article.

COMMENT: The Superintendent of Schools has withdrawn the request.

#### ARTICLE 3 CAPITAL BUDGET/THOMPSON SCHOOL EXPANSION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for an expansion to the Thompson Elementary School, determine how the money shall be raised and expended, including the possibility of borrowing all or some of same; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager)

#### **VOTED:**

That the sum of \$4,000,000 be and hereby is appropriated to fund expansion of the Thompson School and for costs incidental and related thereto; and with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the Treasurer is authorized to borrow \$4,000,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44 Section 7 of the General Laws, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore. Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

#### COMMENT:

The above recommendation is being made in response to a unanimous vote of the School Enrollment Task Force to move forward with the funding of a permanent addition at Thompson School. Thompson's enrollment increase over the last several years has used up all of its available permanent classrooms (19) as well as the temporary modular classrooms (2) that were installed over the summer. Current projections indicate that Thompson's enrollment will continue

to increase until it levels off at over 500 students, requiring an addition comprised of five classrooms and one core space to meet Thompson's projected space needs.

#### ARTICLE 4 APPROPRIATION/CPA - JASON RUSSELL HOUSE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$35,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for preservation work and an engineering assessment of building conditions at the Jason Russell House to preserve historic resources; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Community Preservation Committee)

**VOTED**:

That the sum of \$35,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund FY2017 Budgeted Reserve to the Arlington Historical Society for the preservation of historic resources, subject to the scope of work, budget and conditions in the project proposal dated 2/21/2016 for preservation work and an engineering assessment of building conditions at the Jason Russell House (7 Jason Street), and further subject to the condition that no funds be dispersed until both a grant agreement with the town and an historic preservation deed restriction for the property be executed, such funds to expended under the direction of the Arlington Historical Society and the Community Preservation Committee.

COMMENT: The Finance Committee supports this project recommended by the Community

Preservation Committee.

#### ARTICLE 5 APPROPRIATION/CPA - OLD SCHWAMB MILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$20,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for a new roof and trim at the Old Schwamb Mill barn to preserve historic resources; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Community Preservation Committee)

VOTED: That the sum of \$20,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund FY2017 Budgeted Reserve to the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, Inc. for the preservation of historic resources, subject to the scope of work, budget and conditions in the project proposal dated 2/22/2016 for a new roof and trim at the Old Schwamb Mill Barn (17-18 Mill Lane), and further subject to the condition that no funds be dispersed until both a grant agreement with the town and an historic preservation deed restriction for the property be executed, such funds to expended under the direction of the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust and the Community Preservation Committee.

COMMENT: The Finance Committee supports this project recommended by the Community Preservation Committee.

**ARTICLE 6** The Board of Selectmen will report on this article.

## ARTICLE 7 ACCEPTANCE OF LEGISLATION/ USE OF PARKING METER REVENUE WITHOUT APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to accept provisions of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016 ("An Act Modernizing Municipal Finance and Government"), Section 25, regarding payment for

acquisition or installation of parking meters without appropriation from fees received for the use of such parking meters; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Town Manager)

#### **VOTED:**

That the Town does hereby adopt provisions of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016 ("An Act Modernizing Municipal Finance and Government"), Section 25, elsewhere to be codified as Section 22A of M.G.L. Ch. 40, regarding payment for the acquisition and/or installation of parking meters without appropriation, from fees received for the use of such parking meters, including any subsequent amendments or modifications thereto, such adoption shall be effective upon acceptance.

COMMENT: In order to continue to possess the option of paying for parking meter improvements with the proceeds of such meters efficiently, the Town must now adopt this local option provision created by the Municipal Modernization Act. The Town has in the past, including very recently, found this approach to be a valuable means of funding these important improvements, and as such, the Finance Committee urges positive action under this Article.

The Board of Selectmen and the Redevelopment Board will report on **ARTICLES 8-11** these articles.